

# Air Force ROTC The Mighty Blue Dragons



## Rated (Pilot) Officer Selection

Pilot, Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Pilot, Combat Systems Officer (CSO, formerly known as Navigator), and Air Battle Manager (ABM) are all airborne career fields that are known in the Air Force as "Rated". Rated officer selection is highly competitive in AFROTC. Rated candidates must have excellent academic achievement, physical fitness, and mental toughness. They must also pass more strict medical standards than those entering as line officers (non-rated career fields) in the Air Force.

### How Do I Apply for Rated?

Your AFROTC instructors will poll for your interest in the Rated category about one year before you attend Field Training, during your AS200 or AS250 (typically Sophomore) year. The Rated Selection Board is open to all academic majors and will take place in the Fall of your AS300 (typically Junior) year. There are many details to the process and scoring that will be explained to you when you apply.

See <https://www.afrotc.com/college-life/flight> for more details.

### What Are the Vision Requirements for Rated? Can I Get Laser Eye Surgery?

Basic medical requirements (including vision) for Rated positions can be found here:

<https://www.afrotc.com/program-requirements/medical>

PRK, LASIK, LASEK, and EPI-LASEK are the only Corneal Refractive Surgeries (CRS) approved for initial entry into flying training. \*Implantable collamer lens or ICL is not an approved refractive surgery and is medically disqualifying for the Air Force\*

#### Things that a cadet must be aware of before getting surgery:

- *Does the applicant meet the vision standards? If so, they do not need the surgery for flying certification. However, the choice to have Corneal Refractive Surgery is the cadet's.*
- *If the applicant doesn't meet the vision standards, are they within the pre-op refraction standards to qualify for CRS?*
- *Several individuals were disqualified for no longer meeting the qualifications for commissioning after having post-op CRS complications.*
- *If cadet has undergone CRS, an eye specialist must complete the CRS checklist before submitting for AFROTC certification. All pre/post-operative medical documents and the CRS checklist will be forwarded to AFROTC for review/certification.*
- *All required follow-up refractions are to be accomplished by cycloplegic testing/measurement methods.*
- *Corneal Refractive Surgery has an automatic six month post-surgery Medical Recheck Status (MRS) period for cadets applying for flying/rated positions, non-flying positions and commissioning. The applicable follow-up evaluations must be completed prior to removal of MRS and prior to scheduling of any physical examinations.*
- *Cadets will not be scheduled for their flight physical or any final commission physical until they have met the six month post CRS requirements.*
- *Complications post-op could potentially render the cadet medically disqualified for commissioning.*